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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, be with our Senators not only in great moments but also in the repetitive and common tasks of life. Make them children of faith and heirs of peace. May they tackle even mundane responsibilities with integrity and faithfulness, cheerfulness and kindness, optimism and civility. Lord, give them wisdom to be patient with others, ever lenient to their faults and ever prompt to praise their virtues. May they bear one another's burdens and so fulfill Your law. Keep them ever mindful of the brevity of life and of the importance of being faithful in little things.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Sen-

ator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator McCONNELL, there will be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the first 30 minutes controlled by the majority and the second 30 minutes by the Republicans.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1243, which is the Transportation appropriations bill. Senator MURRAY will continue to work through the amendments with ranking member SUSAN COLLINS from Maine. We also hope to vote on confirmation of the West nomination to be Associate Attorney General. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

DOING WHAT IS GOOD FOR AMERICA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, about 80 years ago when President Franklin Roosevelt first proposed Social Security as insurance against poverty in old age, the idea was controversial, new, never been done before, nothing like it. But in 1935, 97 Republicans joined Democrats in Congress to create one of the most successful programs—if not the most successful program—in the history of our country and in the world.

Two decades, about sixty years later, President Dwight Eisenhower proposed the Nation's first interstate highway

system, proposing the investment would pave the way for a new era of American growth.

Why did Dwight Eisenhower do this? As a young major in the Army, he was directed to bring a convoy of troops and equipment across the country and he determined at that time something had to be done. The roads were nonexistent, and those that existed were not in very good shape. So when he became President, after having been such a successful leader of our efforts in World War II, he asked Congress to invest \$50 billion. Under present-day dollars, that would be about \$500 billion. That meant almost 50,000 miles of new highways.

There are still ideas out there we should do. Eisenhower, along with Roosevelt, did some things that were new and unique. But look back at what they did. Look at the good of Social Security. Look at the good of our interstate highway system.

With the highway bill, back in 1956, the bipartisan vote wasn't even close. Listen to this: It passed the Senate 89-1. It was approved in the House of Representatives by a voice vote.

About 40 years after President Roosevelt decided he should do something about taking care of people in their golden years here in America, President Harry Truman envisioned a program that would protect every senior citizen from illness and need. Well, 83 Republicans helped Lyndon Johnson and Democrats in Congress create Medicare. Democratic President Roosevelt, Republican President Eisenhower, Democratic Presidents Truman and Johnson were the reason we have Medicare. Since the law was enacted in 1965, poverty among seniors in this country has decreased and life expectancy has increased every 10 years because of Medicare.

On each of these occasions I have talked about, and countless others throughout the course of American history, lawmakers—divided by political

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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